AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

Claims 4, 9, 12, 13, 16, 20, 25, 26 and 31-32 are cancelled without prejudice. Please amend claims 1-3, 5-8, 10-11, 14, 17-19, 21-22, 24, 27-30, 33-40 and add claim 41 as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes comprising ~~a biologically absorbable material~~ gelatine or collagen, and hyaluronic acid (HA) or a derivative thereof, wherein said hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof is incorporated into said sponge, powder or flakes.

2. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at least 0.5% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof calculated on the basis of the total weight of the water-free composition, ~~or~~ at least 1% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 2% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 3% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 5% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 7% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 8% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~or~~ at least 10% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, at least 15% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~such as~~ at least 20% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~e.g.~~ at least 25% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~preferably~~ at least 30% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~such~~ as at least 35% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof, ~~e.g.~~ or at least 40% (w/w) of HA or a derivative thereof.

3. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to claim 2, wherein said HA derivative is a salt or an ester of HA.

4. Cancelled.

5. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein said composition comprises at the most 99% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, such as~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 95% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, or~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 90% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, or~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 85% (w/w) of said

~~biologically absorbable material, such as~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 80% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, e.g.~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 75% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, preferably~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 70% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, such as~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 65% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material, e.g.~~ gelatin or collagen, at the most 60% (w/w) of said ~~biologically absorbable material~~ gelatin or collagen.

6. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to ~~any of the preceding claims, which~~ claim 1, further ~~comprises~~ comprising at least one blood coagulation factor, wherein said blood coagulation factor is selected from the group consisting of thrombin or a precursor thereof, factor Va, factor VIIa, factor VIIIa, factor IXa, factor Xa, factor XIa, factor XIIa, factor XIIIa and calcium ions.

7. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to claim 6, ~~which~~ further ~~comprises~~ comprising a thrombin-stabilising agent selected from the group consisting of naturally occurring amino acids, mono-, di- or polysaccharides, polyglycols, proteins and mixtures thereof.

8. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic ~~composition~~sponge, powder or flakes according to ~~any of the preceding claims, which~~ claim 1, further ~~comprises~~ comprising at least one anti-fibrinolytic agent, wherein said anti-fibrinolytic agent is selected from the group consisting of aprotinin, pepstatin, leupeptin, antipain, chymostatin, gabexate mesilate, fibronectin, ε-amino caproic acid and tranexamic acid.

9. Cancelled.

10. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic sponge according to claim ~~9~~,1, wherein said sponge absorbs less water than an absorbable gelatine sponge~~, such as Surgifoam®~~.

11. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic sponge according to claim 10, wherein the ratio between the water absorbed by a haemostatic sponge according to ~~any of claims 1-11~~ claim 1

and the water absorbed by an absorbable gelatine sponge~~, such as Surgifoam®~~, is at the most 0.95 when determined in accordance with USP 24.

12.-13. Cancelled.

14. (Currently Amended) The haemostatic sponge according to ~~any of claims 9-13,~~ claim 1, wherein at least one of the surfaces of said haemostatic sponge is covered by a top sheet.

15. (Original) The haemostatic sponge according to claim 14, wherein said top sheet is removable.

16. Cancelled.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~A~~ The haemostatic ~~composition~~ sponge, powder or flakes according to ~~any of the preceding claims,~~ claim 1, wherein said composition is dry.

18. (Currently Amended) A haemostatic ~~composition according to any of claims 1-8, wherein said composition is a paste comprising water.~~ paste prepared by pre-wetting the haemostatic powder or flakes according to claim 1 with a liquid to create a paste.

19. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a~~ A method of promoting haemostasis comprising applying the haemostatic ~~composition or sponge according to any of the preceding claims as a haemostatic adjunct in medical, veterinary or dental surgery~~sponge, powder, or flakes of claim 1 or the paste according to claim 18 onto at least a portion of an area where bleeding is present.

20. Cancelled.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~Use of a composition or sponge according to any of claims 1-18 as a vehicle for delivery of an agent~~ A method of delivering an agent to an intended local site of a patient comprising including the agent in the sponge, powder, or flakes of claim 1 or in the paste of claim 18 and delivering the agent to the local site.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for arresting bleeding comprising applying to the site of bleeding ~~a~~the haemostatic ~~composition or~~ sponge, powder, or flakes according to ~~any of claims 1~~ claim 1 or the paste according to claim 18.

23. (Original)A method of producing a haemostatic composition comprising the steps of:

i) mixing a biologically absorbable material and hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof and a solvent

ii) treating the mixture obtained in step i) with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C.

24. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 23, wherein said method comprises a further step of drying the mixture obtained in step i) before treating ~~it~~the mixture according to step ii).

25.-26. Cancelled.

27. (Currently Amended) A method for preparing ~~a~~the haemostatic sponge according to claim ~~12~~,1, said method comprising the steps of:

i) mixing a biologically absorbable material, hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof and a solvent; and

ii) drying said mixture.

28. (Currently Amended) A method according to claim 27, wherein said method further comprises a step of stabilising the mixture obtained in said step ii) or the sponge.

29. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claims 23-~~28~~ or 27, wherein the mixing of the biologically absorbable material, hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof and a solvent may be performed by any of the following alternatives:

a) mixing a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof and ~~then~~ subsequently adding a solvent;

b) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof;

c) mixing a biologically absorbable material with a solution of hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof;

d) mixing a solution of a biologically absorbable material with hyaluronic acid or a derivative thereof.

30. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 23~~-29,~~ or 27, wherein said mixing is performed under mechanical influence~~, such as whipping, stirring, spinning, static mixing, motionless mixing or centrifugation~~.

31.-32. Cancelled.

33. (Currently Amended) A method according to ~~any of claims 28 and 32,~~claim 28, wherein said stabilising comprises treating the mixture or sponge with dry heat at a temperature between 110-200°C or treating it with a compound capable of chemically crosslinking the mixture or sponge.

34. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claims 23~~-33,~~ or 27, wherein said method further comprises a step of sterilization of the mixture or sponge.

35. (Currently Amended) A method according to any of claims 23~~-34,~~ or 27, wherein the biologically absorbable material is selected from the group consisting of gelatine, collagen, chitin, chitosan, alginate, cellulose, oxidised cellulose, oxidised regenerated cellulose, carboxymethylcellulose (CMC), hydroxyethylcellulose (HEC), polyglycolic acid, polyacetic acid, derivatives thereof and mixtures thereof.

36. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 23~~-35,~~ or 27, wherein said solution of HA, or a derivative thereof, is provided in the form of a gel.

37. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 24 or ~~26-36,~~27, wherein said drying is performed at a temperature from about 20°C to about 40°C, ~~such as~~ or at about 30°C.

38. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 24 or ~~26-37,~~27, wherein said drying is conducted for about 6 to about 24 hours, ~~such as~~ or at about 16 hours.

39. (Currently Amended) The method according to any of claims 24 or ~~26-36,~~27, wherein said drying is performed by freeze-drying.

40. (Currently Amended) A haemostatic composition obtainable by a method according to ~~any of claims 23-24, 29-30 and 34-39.~~ claim 23.

41. (New) The method according to any of claims 23 or 27 wherein said mixing is performed by whipping, stirring, spinning, static mixing, motionless mixing or centrifugation.